

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A cured epoxy resin ~~with increased flexural impact strength and breaking extension coupled with retention of stiffness~~, comprising deagglomerated barium sulphate having primary and secondary particles, the primary particles having an average primary particle size of $< 0.5 \mu\text{m}$, the barium sulphate comprising a crystallization inhibitor and a dispersant,

wherein the barium sulphate comprises a dispersant that sterically prevents reagglomeration of the barium sulphate particles and that comprises groups which are able to interact with the surface of the barium sulphate, the dispersant being substituted by polar groups which endow the barium sulphate particles with a hydrophilicized surface, which permit the coupling of the barium sulphate particles to or into the epoxide and, accompanying the coupling, a further deagglomeration.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, wherein the barium sulphate is present in an amount of 0.1% to 50% by weight.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, wherein the primary particle size of the barium sulphate is in the range from $0.01 \mu\text{m}$ to $0.5 \mu\text{m}$.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, wherein 90% of the secondary barium sulphate particles are smaller than $2 \mu\text{m}$.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, wherein the deagglomerated barium sulphate is dispersed in a hardener, a polyol and/or in the ~~uncured~~ epoxy resin prior to curing.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 5, wherein the hardener is a ~~based on~~ polyoxyalkylenamines or ~~in an~~ anhydride hardener.

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1 [[7]], wherein the dispersant is a polyether carboxylate which is substituted by terminal hydroxyl groups on the ether groups.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, wherein the crystallization inhibitor is citric acid or sodium polyacrylate.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A composite material comprising the cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The composite material according to Claim 10, further comprising carbon fiber ~~fibre~~ or glass fiber ~~fibre~~ reinforcement.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A composition comprising an epoxy resin precursor and deagglomerated barium sulphate having primary and secondary particles, the primary

particles having a primary particle size $< 0.5 \mu\text{m}$, and comprising a crystallization inhibitor and a dispersant,

wherein the barium sulphate comprises a dispersant that sterically prevents reagglomeration of the barium sulphate particles and that comprises groups which are able to interact with the surface of the barium sulphate, the dispersant being substituted by polar groups which endow the barium sulphate particles with a hydrophilicized surface, which permit the coupling of the barium sulphate particles to or into the epoxide and, accompanying the coupling, a further deagglomeration.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The composition according to Claim 12, wherein the barium sulphate is present in an amount of 0.1 % to 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A composition comprising uncured epoxy resin and deagglomerated barium sulphate having primary and secondary particles, the primary particles having a primary particle size $< 0.5 \mu\text{m}$, the barium sulphate comprising a crystallization inhibitor and a dispersant,

wherein the barium sulphate comprises a dispersant that sterically prevents reagglomeration of the barium sulphate particles and that comprises groups which are able to interact with the surface of the barium sulphate, the dispersant being substituted by polar groups which endow the barium sulphate particles with a hydrophilicized surface, which permit the coupling of the barium sulphate particles to or into the epoxide and, accompanying the coupling, a further deagglomeration.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The composition according to Claim 14, wherein the barium sulphate is present in an amount of 0.1% to 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a cured epoxy resin ~~resins~~ according to Claim 1, wherein barium sulphate having a particle size $< 0.5 \mu\text{m}$, and comprising a said crystallization inhibitor and a said dispersant, is deagglomerated in a precursor of the cured epoxy resin, and then the cured epoxy resin is produced.

Claim 17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, wherein the deagglomerated barium sulphate has an average primary particle size of $< 0.1 \mu\text{m}$.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, wherein 90% of the secondary barium sulphate particles are smaller than 250 nm.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, ~~obtainable~~ obtained by dispersing the deagglomerated barium sulphate in a precursor of the epoxy resin prior to its curing.

Claim 21 (Cancelled)

Claim 22 (New): The composition according to Claim 12, wherein the dispersant is a polyether carboxylate which is substituted by terminal hydroxyl groups on the ether groups.

Claim 23 (New): The composition according to Claim 14, wherein the dispersant is a polyether carboxylate which is substituted by terminal hydroxyl groups on the ether groups.